

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT OSLO 2422 ACTION SECSTATE 13 JUNE.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XV, TGEN, PLOS

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MEETING: DISCUSSION OF MINERAL RESOURCES

REFS: (A) OSLO 2401 (B) OSLO 2359 (C) OSLO 2332

SUMMARY: STATEMENTS ON MINERAL RESOURCES WERE HELD IN
PLENARY SESSION JUNE 12-13, ALL SPEAKERS EXPRESSED SENSE
OF URGENCY EXCEPT CHILE, ARGENTINA, US AND USSR. SEVERAL
PROPOSALS FOR WORKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN MADE. END SUMMARY

1. ADDRESSING MINERAL RESOURCE ISSUE ON JUNE 12 NORWAY
WARNED OF URGENCY, FEAR OF UN ACTION AND NEED TO
PREVENT DISCORD AND PROTECT ENVIRONMENT. THESE THEMES
WERE PICKED UP BY MANY, INCLUDING BELGIUM, SOUTH AFRICA
AND NEW ZEALAND. ALMOST ALL DELS SAID THEY WANTED TO WORK
WITH THE TWELVE AND NOT IN GLOBAL FORUM, INCLUDING
LOS CONFERENCE.

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2. FRANCE EXPRESSED NEED TO ADDRESS ISSUES NOW. GOF

IS FAVORABLE TO UNDERTAKING EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION. THE TWELVE, FRENCH TEP SAID, HAVE A SPECIAL DUTY TO PRESERVE ANTARCTICA FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND TO CONSERVE THE ENVIRONMENT AND ARE RESPONSIBLE TO TAKE ACTION CONCERNING MINERAL RESOURCES. FRANCE PROPOSED AD HOC WORKING PARTY BEFORE NEXT CONSULTATIVE MEETING TO DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY, INCLUDING THE EQUALITY OF ALL STATES.

3. US REP (HEG) DELIVERED STATEMENT REPORTED IN REF A.

4. CHILE OBSTRUCTED FULL DISCUSSION BY INSISTING AGENDA DEAL ONLY WITH EFFECTS RPT EFFECTS OF EXPLORATION NOT RPT NOT EXPLOITATION. IN PARTICULAR CHILE WANTS THOROUGH STUDIES OF ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMICS, TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCE POTENTIAL BEFORE TALKING POLICY. CHILEAN REP SAID QUITLY THEIR VIEW WAS THAT TREATY DOES NOT PPERMIT EXPLOITATION BY OTHERS. ARGENTINA FOLLOWED SAME LINE SOMEWHAT LESS EMPHATICALLY. NEITHER EXPRESSED URGENCY OR FEAR OF UN ACTION.

5. UK SAID LITTLE MORE THAN THAT IT PREFERS SOLUTION AMONG THE TWELVE. UK DECLARED NO COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY LIKELY WITHOUT PROVISION FOR PROTECTION OF RIGHTS, AND WARNED OF DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF LICENSING BY ANY STATE. BELGIUM WAS OF SAME GENERAL VIEW. VAN DER ESSEN (BELGIUM) REPORTED CORRIDOR TOLK IN GENEVA WHERE LANDLOCKED STATES WANTED ANTARCTICA AS COMPENSATION COASTAL EXTENSIONS. USSR REMAINS OF VIEW DISCUSSION IS VERY PREMATURE AT LEAST UNTIL GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SHELF COMPLETED AND IMPLIED THAT MORATORIUM IS DESIRABLE.

6. SOUTH AFRICA OPPOSED MORATORIUM AS UNWORKABLE SOLUTION AND URGED AGREEMENT ON LEGAL BASIS OF THE TWELVE'S RESPONSIBILITY BEFORE WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS CONVENED. THIS APPEARS TO MEAN A CONDOMINIUM. NEW ZELAND SAW THREAT OF UNILATERAL ACTION OR UN ACTION A DANGER GIVING RISE TO URGENCY AND SUPPORTED SHORT MORATORIUM WITH COMMITMENT TO NEGOTIATE OR ALTERNATIVELY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CREATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRESERVE.

7. PICKING UP DISCUSSION ON JUNE 13, AUSTRALIA PROPOSED TWO WORKING GROUPS TO STUDY PROBLEMS BETWEEN CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS -- ONE FOR A SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND ONE FOR POLITICAL/LEGAL PROBLEMS. JAPAN DECLARED THAT CONSULTATIVE MEETING SHOULD NOT ADDRESS RESOURCE ISSUE UNTIL AFTER LOS HAS CONCLUDED ITS

WORK. JAPANESE DEL ALSO RESERVED ITS POSITION ON A
WORKING GROUP OR GROUPS. THEY TOLD US PRIVATELY
THAT RESERVATION WAS MADE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AND
WAS UNIMPORTANT; IT RELATED ONLY TO TOKYO SORTING
OUT QUESTION OF FUNDING FOR PARTICIPANT'S TRAVEL.
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